

Restriction of Claims 4-7, 9, 10, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 121

Claims 4-7, 9, 10, and 11 have been restricted, under 35 U.S.C. § 121, as follows:

- I. Claims 4-7 and 9, drawn to a novelty system, class 403, subclass 229.
- II. Claims 10 and 11, drawn to a method for constructing a connector, class 403, subclass 410.

Provisional Election under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

The Applicants hereby provisionally elect Group I, comprising Claims 4-7, and 9, as indicated by the Examiner. This provisional election is made *with traverse* inasmuch as Claims 4-7 and 9-11 are drawn to a singular inventive concept as shown in the Drawings and as set forth in the Claims.

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 10 and 11 have been amended in the January 20, 2006, Supplemental Amendment to better encompass the full scope and breadth of the present invention, notwithstanding the Applicants' belief that the claims would have been allowable as originally filed. The Applicants respectfully assert that no claims have been narrowed within the meaning of *Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co.* (Fed.Cir. November 29, 2000).

In particular, Claims 10 and 11 have been both amended to recite a "kit," rather than a method, in the January 20, 2006, Supplemental Amendment. Thus, the Applicants respectfully submit that this ground for restriction of Claims 4-7, 9, 10, and 11 on this basis is moot. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that this ground for restriction of Claims 4-7, 9, 10, and 11 on this basis be withdrawn.

Accordingly, reconsideration of the present application in light of the foregoing provisional election being made with traverse, the January 20, 2006, Supplemental Amendment, and these remarks is respectfully requested. The Examiner is further cordially

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U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/612,094

Response to Office Action Restriction Requirement of January 30, 2006

Attorney Docket No. 03-11987

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invited to telephone the undersigned for any reason which would advance allowance of the pending claims. In the event that any additional fees become due or payable, the Examiner is authorized to charge USPTO Deposit Account No. 03-2030 accordingly. A duplicate of this authorization is attached herewith.

Date:

Feb 1, 2006

DMC/MLD:sc

Enclosure:

Acknowledgement Postcard

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Respectfully submitted,

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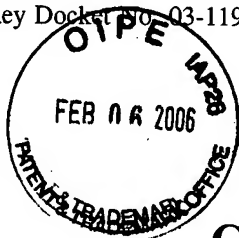
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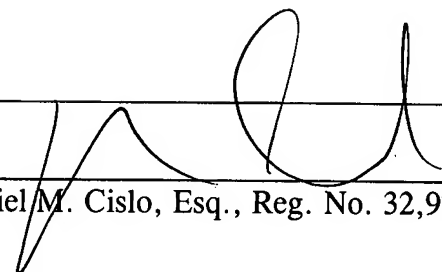
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Date

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